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Craft of Intelligence

By WILLIAM HOGAN

The Central Intelligence Agency has had its share of troubles in recent years. Certainly it has stirred controversy in such delicate areas as the Bay of Pigs and, more recently, in the weird political and military atmosphere of South Vietnam. Nevertheless, the CIA is "the least understood and most misrepresented of professions, its former chief, Allen Dulles, declares in his book, "The Craft of Intelligence."

This is a timely document, as Dulles seeks to set the record straight. He is, of course, too good an intelligence chief to say very much about the real inner workings of the agency here. What we have is an informed, gentlemanly, semiofficial discussion of the undercover trade in war and peace, and an illuminating chat on the history of the craft from the time when prophets, seers, oracles, soothsayers and astrologers were mainly in charge of it.

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DULLES SEEKS to blast some "myths" that surround the CIA. One of these—in spite of current rumors out of Southeast Asia—is the idea that the CIA makes foreign policy, or cuts across programs laid down by the President and Secretary of State.

In a personal note, Dulles mentions that he felt it was high time that someone should

explain what properly can be told about intelligence as "a vital element in the structure of our Government in this modern age." The emphasis seems to be on that phrase, "what properly can be told."

One of the most revealing sections of the book deals with the cranks, crackpots and mischievous maker the American intelligence people always have in their hair. These include citizens who try to sell nonexistent information, or who denounce anyone they don't like (and often their friends) as Russian spies.

The Profumo affair in England, Dulles suggests, may have encouraged the Russians to use vice rings to discredit key government personnel in opposing camps. This is the closest Dulles comes to relating the real craft of intelligence to the more romantic Ian Fleming kind. American operatives and clandestine agents just do not carry weapons, or swallow coded messages. Nor do they have anything to do with beautiful ladies of any nationality, except presumably, on their own time.

Dulles asserts that the protective and informative role of the agency is "indispensable in an era of unique and continuing power." Soviet intelligence people are not supermen, he reminds us, and he shows how

they have made their own share of horrible mistakes.

Dulles is emphatic on one point: "The last thing we can afford to do today is to put our intelligence in chains."

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YOU MAY HAVE seen the news story the other day on Mark Twain's "Reflections on Religion." This is a five-chapter segment of his autobiography, heretofore hidden from public view.

The material was withheld for years by Mark Twain's daughter, Clara Samossoud, who relented just before she died in 1960.

The literary quarterly *Hudson Review* acquired the rights to these papers and published them early this month, one of the literary coups of the century. For the author himself suggested they be withheld "for 500 years."

Mark Twain blamed Christianity for the power struggle between nations and for wars, misery and suffering through the ages. He was acid in his opinions. He dictated these in 1906, four years before his death. He wrote to his friend William Dean Howells at the time: "Tomorrow I mean to dictate a chapter which will get my heirs and assigns burnt alive if they venture to print it this side of 2006 A.D.—which I judge they won't."